

Royal Far West

1924 –

- Other Names:**
- Far West Children's Scheme
 - Far West Home
 - Royal Far West Children's Home
 - Royal Far West Children's Services
 - Manly Far West Home
 - Far West Children's Health Scheme
 - Far West Children's Home
 - Drummond Far West Home
 - Far West Children's Services
 - Royal Far West Scheme

URL: <http://www.royalfarwest.org.au>

Details

Royal Far West, also referred to as Royal Far West Scheme and Drummond Far West Home, was set up in Manly in 1924 as a holiday home, to enable children from far western New South Wales to escape the conditions of the outback by holidaying by the sea. Over the years it has evolved to take children for convalescence and respite care and since 1970 it has been called Royal Far West.

The scheme was founded by Reverend Sydney Drummond, the superintendent of the Methodist Far West Mission at Cobar, and his wife Lucy. It began taking children in the 1920s.

Far West Home was a popular charity, and in 1933 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith donated the funds he had been given to recognise his air services to build the new centre on Wentworth Street.

After much fundraising the scheme purchased land in Wentworth Street Manly and opened Drummond Far West Children's Home in 1935. It developed medical, dental and eye services and became a major convalescent hospital for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children from remote areas, caring for some children for more than 12 months. It also provided outreach services, touring specialist doctors and dentists to remote towns. It later expanded to take over the South Steyne frontage, on the corner of Wentworth Street.

The Far West Home developed to provide convalescent care and respite for sick children and specialist medical care, including eye care. The Aborigines Protection Board and Aborigines Welfare Board sent Aboriginal children to the home.

By the 1930s the Education Department had appointed a teacher to the home, as some children stayed up to 12 months at a time. By the 1950s the Home had its own school, in Wentworth Street Manly. By that time, many children at the home were victims of the polio epidemic, and the Home provided specialist services fitting splints and providing orthopaedic boots for children with leg deformities.

In 1953 a children's party at Royal Far West formed part of the broadcast of the Queen's speech.

The scheme became 'Royal Far West' in 1970, when Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Anne visited.

Royal Far West provided aged care for a period in the 1980s, but has since stopped. It developed a range of health care services, including telehealth clinics, at the Manly site in the late 20th century.

In 2012, Royal Far West provides specialist medical, paediatric, telehealth, allied health, psychological and behavioural care and advice to children aged from birth to 12 years of age, from rural, regional and remote New South Wales. It runs respite care for children with special needs, including a retreat called Eagles' Nest.

Gallery



Crowds listening to speakers

Description: This image shows the opening of the Drummond Wing, Royal Far West Children's Home. The image is from Sam Hood's news photo series, Far West Children's Home, Manly.



The Drummond Far West Home, Wentworth St, Manly

Description: This image shows the outside of Royal Far West. This image is no longer in operation, this link has been taken from the WayBack Machine and was dated 12 February 2014.



Drummond Far West Home

Description: This is a photograph of the Royal Far West Home.



Drummond Far West Home - nursery

Description: This is a photograph of the nursery at the Royal Far West Home. It shows a woman standing next to a baby in a high chair, in front of a row of covered bassinets.



Drummond Far West Home - naptime

Description: This is a photograph showing children napping in cots in a playroom at the Royal Far West Home.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Aborigines Welfare Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1940 - 1969\)](#)
Aboriginal children were sent for holidays and hospital care to Royal Far West by the Aborigines Welfare Board.
- [Aborigines Protection Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1883 - 1940\)](#)
Aboriginal children were sent for holidays and hospital care to Royal Far West by the Aborigines Protection Board.

Resources

- [Everest hero to introduce Royal broadcast](#), The Australian Women's Weekly, 23 December 1953
- New South Wales Department of Education and Communities, [Government Schools of New South Wales from 1848: Special Education 1866-2004](#), 2013
- [Wealthy Man's Estate: Generous Gifts to Charities](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 October 1946
- Tovey, Noel, *Little black bastard: a story of survival*, 2005
- [Yoonthalla Close interviewed by Anne Monsour in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 5 July 2011
- [Patrick Sephton interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 2001

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Collection of negatives concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most negatives show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930 - c. 1930\)](#)
 - [Collection of photographs concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most photographs show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930 - c. 1930\)](#)
 - [Collection of negatives concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most negatives show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930 - c. 1930\)](#)
 - [Photographs and negatives related to the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme, ca. 1950-1975 \(1950 - 1975\)](#)
 - [John Mulligan Photograph Collection, ca. 1960-1976 \(c. 1960 - c. 1976\)](#)
 - [Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(N.S.W.\) aggregated collection of records \(1936 - 1995\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [School Files \(1876 - 1979\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/royal-far-west/>